

Message Text

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ORIGIN H-02

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA NIACT IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 156833

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEFR, TU

SUBJECT: LIFTING THE TURKISH EMBARGO -- CONGRESSIONAL
TIMETABLE

1. IT IS NOW APPARENT THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WILL NOT VOTE DURING THE WEEK OF JUNE 26 ON THE SECURITY
ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZATION BILL, INCLUDING THE PROPOSAL
TO REPEAL THE TURKISH EMBARGO. THE DEATH OF CONGRESSMAN
ALLEN (D-TENN.) AND THE HEAVY BACKLOG OF APPROPRIATION
BILLS HAS CROWDED THE CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL CALENDAR TO A
POINT WHERE CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI DID NOT WISH TO ASK FOR
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A "RULE" TO BRING THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZATION
BILL TO THE FLOOR IN JUNE.

2. RUMORS ARE CIRCULATING THROUGH THE CONGRESS THAT THE
DELAY IN HOUSE CONSIDERATION OF THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE
AUTHORIZATION BILL IS THE RESULT OF AN EFFORT BY
CONGRESSMAN BRADEMANS AND OTHER OPPONENTS OF THE ADMINIS-

TRATION PROPOSAL TO LIFT THE EMBARGO. THESE OPPONENTS DID SEEK TO DELAY THE VOTE BUT SO DID SOME KEY SUPPORTERS WHO FELT THEY DID NOT YET HAVE A MAJORITY TO CARRY THE PROGRAM ON THE HOUSE FLOOR. THE DECISION FOR DELAY WAS, HOWEVER, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS NECESSITATED BY THE CONGRESSIONAL CALENDAR RATHER THAN BY EITHER CONTENDING GROUPS.

3. OUR BEST CURRENT GUESS IS THAT THE HOUSE VOTE WILL NOW TAKE PLACE SOMETIME DURING THE WEEK OF JULY 17. GIVEN THIS FACT, A PRIOR VOTE IN THE SENATE IS ONCE AGAIN A THEORETICAL POSSIBILITY. WE WILL DISCUSS THIS POSSIBILITY WITH THE SENATE LEADERSHIP. OUR BEST CURRENT GUESS IS THAT IF SUCH A VOTE CAN BE ARRANGED, IT WOULD COME TOWARD THE END OF THE WEEK OF JULY 10 OR THE BEGINNING OF THE WEEK OF JULY 17 -- THUS ONLY A FEW DAYS AHEAD OF THE HOUSE VOTE.

4. COUNSELOR NIMETZ SPOKE ALONG THESE LINES TO TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL LATE JUNE 20, STRESSING ALSO THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAD NOT SOUGHT A DELAY. NIMETZ ALSO EMPHASIZED TO ESENBEL THAT ADMINISTRATION EFFORT IS CONTINUING AT RAPID PACE. EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN EXPECTED BE ONE OF TOPICS COVERED AT PRESIDENT'S DINNER WITH HOUSE AND SENATE LEADERSHIP ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES JUNE 20. CONFIDENTIAL

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SECRETARY WILL MEET WITH CONGRESSMEN RHODES AND BUCHANAN JUNE 21 AND GIVE BREAKFAST FOR HOUSE MEMBERS JUNE 22. PRESIDENT WILL MEET WITH LEADERS OF GREEK-AMERICAN COMMUNITY JUNE 22 AND WILL PROBABLY HAVE FURTHER CONGRESSIONAL BREAKFAST NEXT WEEK. GENERAL HAIG HAS SEEN NUMBER OF CONGRESSMEN THIS WEEK. OTHER EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICIALS HAVE HAD NUMEROUS CONGRESSIONAL CONTACTS AND THIS PROCESS WILL CONTINUE.

5. AMBASSADOR SHOULD MAKE SAME POINTS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE JUNE 21 TO APPROPRIATE GOVT OFFICIAL IN ANKARA.

6. IN VIEW OF ABOVE CONGRESSIONAL CALENDAR, DEPARTMENT DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT AMBASSADOR NEED RETURN TO WASHINGTON FOR WEEK OF JUNE 26 AS HAD BEEN PLANNED. WE WILL ARRANGE EXTENSIVE SCHEDULE OF CONTACTS DURING WEEK BEGINNING JULY 10. IT MAY WELL ALSO BE USEFUL FOR AMBASSADOR TO REMAIN IN WASHINGTON DURING WEEK OF JULY 17. VANCE

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